



DEKALB
CHURCH
NAZARENE
HISTORY
31

2010

A Brief Summary
of the
Auburn Church of the Nazarene

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE AUBURN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The Church began with cottage prayer meetings held in the home of Clarence and Mae Cook on West 15th Street.

In March of 1917, a revival was held which lasted for 8 weeks. The services were first held in a building on South Main Street. After four weeks, because the rent was too high, the meeting place was changed to 135½ East Ninth Street over Murray Steele's Harness Shop, the building later was owned and occupied by L. Waite Widney Plumbing and Heating Company.

At the end of eight weeks, a mission was organized and a Sunday School with 13 members. One of the first things the Superintendent did was to make a birthday offering box with a hole in the top big enough only for pennies so people used only pennies for their offerings. It is interesting to note that this money was used for missions.

On May 13, 1917, the Mission was organized into the Church of the Nazarene with ten Charter members. One of these ten, Mrs. Leo Gaff, is still a member of the church.

On February 3, 1920, the St. John's Reform Church was rented for ten dollars a month with an agreement that the Church of the Nazarene could use the church for services when the St. John's Reform Church was not using it.

This church was located where our present church now stands. It was a one room structure with one aisle leading down the center. There was no basement and it was heated by two old fashioned stoves.

On January 15, 1921, the W.F.M.S. was organized and on March 4, 1921, the N.Y.P.S. was organized with all the young people between the ages of fourteen and thirty-five.

On July 21, 1923, the Church of the Nazarene purchased from the Orphans Home of the St. John's Reform Church the church they had been renting for over three years for the sum of \$3,800.00.

In November of 1924, a gracious revival was held by Rev. James Miller and A.H. Johnson. On the last Sunday of the meeting Rev. Miller challenged the people to push out the East wall and enlarge the building and suggested they dig a basement under the church. So the next morning early, Ira Goe, Joe Wyatt, Leo Gaff and several others started to dig out the basement, with the blessings of the Lord, and the people with a mind to work. The church was enlarged to about twice the original size, a full basement with classrooms was realized and a coal furnace was installed. The platform was in the northeast corner of the remodeled church and used circular pews were also purchased.

In September of 1926, Rev. H.W. Cornelius became the pastor. During his ministry of three and one-half years the church made splendid progress. The Sunday School average increased from 83 to 125.

April 6, 1930, Rev. Grant Barton came to pastor the church. During his four years the church continued to make progress and began to branch out and help to start churches in nearby communities by transferring a number of members as well as giving of their time and effort.

In September of 1934, Rev. J.O. McKinley came to carry on the work and under his leadership the long debt on the church was reduced to \$600.00.

In 1935, our church was very happy for the privilege of entertaining the District Assembly. The business sessions were held in the First Methodist Church and the evening services were held in the high school gymnasium.

March 7, 1937, Rev. J. W. Montgomery and Dr. R. T. Williams were here and raised \$2,350.00 to clear the debt on the church property.

November 14, 1937, Rev. Fred Wright assumed the pastorate. The church continued to grow spiritually and also in membership. During his ministry the remaining debt on the church was liquidated and plans were begun to enlarge the church building again.

December 10, 1939, \$225.00 was raised for the Olivet Fire Fund.

On July 29, 1940, Rev. Wright organized the Butler Mission into the Church of the Nazarene.

Rev. Arthur L. Leech succeeded Rev. Wright in September 1940. The building was started and we worshipped in the assembly room of the courthouse while the church was under construction. The church was greatly enlarged. An oil furnace, fluorescent lights and new furniture were installed and the building was finished during the ministry of Rev. George Brannon who came January 1, 1942. May 8, 1942, the church was dedicated by Dr. D. Shelby Corlett, who at this time was editor of the Herald of Holiness.

June 14, 1942, \$1,750.00 in pledges were raised to apply on the church debt.

January 24, 1943, Rev. Ronald Bishop and Miss Ruth Hower were special guests. Bro. Bishop preached in both services and raised \$783.00 for Olivet College. At the close of the evening service, Bro. Brannon received Bro. Bishop into the membership of the church.

July 9, 1944, another happy occasion was the burning of the \$20,000.00 mortgage on the newly completed church. Dr. S.S. White was the special speaker.

August 12, 1945, was Bro. Brannons last Sunday as our pastor. He is entering the field of evangelism. On August 19, 1945, Rev. Glenn Miller became our pastor. It was during his ministry that the Sunday School reached an average attendance of 200.

August 31, 1947, Rev. I.F. Younger accepted the call to our church. It was during his ministry in 1948 the Sunday School annex was built.

April 17, 1949, the Easter Offering was \$1,260.00.

August 7, 1949, Rev. Harold Johnston followed Bro. Younger. Bro. Johnston was a great blessing to all. During his ministry the Sunday School reached an all time high average of 240.

Homecoming August 19, 1951, special workers were Rev. & Mrs. H.W. Cornelius, missionary Mary Anderson from India and District Superintendent Rev. Paul Updike.

Rev. Marvin J. Jones succeeded Bro. Johnston on September 7, 1952.

March 16-18, 1954, the Auburn Church was host for the N.E.I. District Annual Preachers Meeting. Guest speakers were General Superintendent Dr. Samuel Young and Dr. H.W. Reed, President of Olivet Nazarene College. Rev. Jones served our church for two years.

July 18, 1954, Rev. John Wine succeeded Rev. Jones. In 1955, the new educational unit was constructed at the rear of the church. It is a 42' by 60' frame one floor building with four individual classrooms, plus a 17' by 40' auditorium which is equipped with modern-fold doors, thus making three more class rooms. This unit was built at a cost of approximately \$13,500.00. In the same expansion program, the balcony was converted into a much needed nursery at a cost of \$2,400.00 and a public address system was installed at this time. Rev. Wine received a unanimous recall for the coming year. This is the first unanimous recall given to a pastor of the Auburn Church in several years the church officials report.

January 31, 1955, the District N.Y.P.S. Zone Banquet was held in the Auburn Hotel with the Earl Weatherford Quartette and Rev. James Snow, District N.Y.P.S. President, who is pastor of the Butler Church. The Lord's presence was so precious, the quartette was anointed of the Lord and their singing was wonderful.

October 9, 1955, pledges for the new annex to the church was taken which amounted to \$10,240.00. Bro. Wine said there is an indebtedness of \$8,000.00 for the annex and the sum pledged this morning was more than enough to take care of the expense. And on October 30, 1955, District Superintendent Rev. Paul Updike dedicated the new constructed units, nursery and public address system.

March 25, 1956, was the dedication of the Hammond organ. Also during 1956, the basement was completely redecorated and a beautiful tile floor was laid.

During the revival of March 1957, Evangelist Bernie Smith made the announcement that Rev. Ronald Bishop of British Honduras has requested that Bro. Wine come and hold his Annual District Assembly, speak in the commencement exercises of the Bible School and preach in their tent meeting. Bro. Smith then took an offering for Bro. & Sis. Wine in the amount of \$630.00. They are to leave Ft. Wayne airport Thursday, April 25, at 12:46 p.m. and arrive in British Honduras next morning at 5:00 a.m.

June 1957, the last note of indebtedness on the educational unit was paid and at the present time the church is free of debt.

December 1, 1957, a Christmas offering was taken for Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Bishop in the amount of \$245.10.

December 29, 1957, Rev. Wine read a letter of congratulations on the Church's Golden Anniversary from President Dwight Eisenhower.

April 29, 1958, the property at 319 West 2nd Street was purchased from Mrs. F.L. (Moor) Bailey for a parking lot at a cost of \$6,500.00.

July 1958, Rev. James Weeks left for Beirut Lebanon, as missionary for the American Bible Society. His family will follow later because of the unrest in Beirut. (Mrs. Weeks is the sister of Mrs. John Wine) They are members of our church.

August 3, 1958, Rev. Wine announced he has accepted a call to the First Church of the Nazarene at Anderson, Indiana. Our loss is their gain. Bro. & Sis. Wine were loved and appreciated by all. Our church has been blessed with the presence of the Lord and a wonderful spiritual growth these past four years.

Rev. V. F. Owens succeeded Rev. Wine. They arrived in Auburn September 17, 1958.

August 30, 1959, a special offering was taken to purchase a new piano. It cost \$3,575.00 less trade-in and discount which made it \$2,200.00.

Homecoming September 6, 1958, special workers were Rev. Ronald Bishop and family, Byron Hunt and family, Rev. George Gillespie and family and Rev. & Mrs. Harold Johnston and son David.

March 1961, new carpet was laid in the church at a cost of \$2,000.00. July 16, 1961, pledges were taken for a tape recorder. The amount pledged was \$130.00. And on August 27, 1961, the morning service was recorded. This is the first service to be taped. It will be taken to the shut-ins so they can enjoy the services. Roy Watson has volunteered to take it around to the homes where requested.

June 3, 1962, goals set for the coming year were: 1. pay off the parking lot. 2. replace main furnace in the church 3. remodel present parsonage or buy a new parsonage.

November 19, 1962, plans for change of classrooms in the basement were shown. The approximate cost of \$1,700.00. Vote taken - votes cast - 106 yes-103 No-3

Homecoming August 25, 1963, special workers were Rev. Harold Johnston, Rev. Ronald Bishop, Rev. & Mrs. Willis Brand, The Brown Family singers from Muncie, Ind., Phyllis (Gillespie) Deal, Faith Dillon, The Ronald Bishop girls, and among the visitors were Rev. & Mrs. Fred Wright.

October 27, 1963, vote was taken on the purchase of the Golden Reno property for a parsonage at a cost of \$26,500.00. Votes cast 97 - Yes-83 No-4.

May 16, 1964, the Owens family moved into the new parsonage at 501 North VanBuren Street and open house was held July 19, 1964.

June 1, 1965, Mrs. Paul Updike, Dist. N.W.M.S. President, went to be with the Lord.

June 27, 1965, Rev. Owens announced he has accepted the call to Anderson Goodwin Church, Anderson, Ind.

Rev. Roger Ward succeeded Rev. Owens on August 1, 1965.

November 9, 1965, Ruth Bishop, wife of Rev. Ronald Bishop, went to be with the Lord after 5½ in a coma following surgery in 1960. They were home on furlough from British Honduras.

May 14, 1967, was the Golden Anniversary of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene. Workers were The Viking Male Chorus from Olivet Nazarene College, Rev. Grant Barton, Rev. Ronald Bishop and Rev. V.F. Owens.

Rev. Lorne MacMillan succeeded Rev. Ward on July 9, 1967.

September 1967, the Sunday School van was purchased for \$2,600.00.

December 15, 1968, plans for a new addition to the church was presented. On February 23, 1969, William Gunter, architect from Dayton, Ohio, showed the plans for the new addition. The approximate cost is \$90,000.00 and this does not include the refinishing of the present church. Vote was taken - votes cast 105 - yes-65 - no-40. According to the June 1971 financial report the total cost of the new addition and extras was \$121,279.00. Construction began April 20, 1970.

February 14, 1971, the new addition to the church was dedicated and guest speakers were Dist. Supt. Dr. Fletcher Spruce and Rev. V.F. Owens.

Homecoming on May 30, 1971, Rev. Harold Johnston, former pastor, was the speaker.

Rev. Carl Greek succeeded Rev. MacMillan on February 15, 1972.

Radio program "Beside the Still Water" over station WIFF-FM Auburn, Ind., began Sunday, April 2, 1972, at 9:30 p.m., sponsored by the Auburn Church.

A new gas furnace was installed in the parsonage in December 1972.

Sunday, March 18, 1973, there was only worship service at 10:30 a.m., in the chapel for those who were able to get to church because of the heavy snow on Saturday which drifted and closed the roads.

Following the evening service on March 25, 1973, Rev. L.E. Tucker met with the Church Board to discuss "Assured Funds, Inc." to pay off the church indebtedness.

The 1965 Chevrolet school bus was purchased April 18, 1973, at a cost of \$1,500.00. It was used for the first time July 22 with 26 persons on it.

October 7, 1973, a vote was taken on the project of covering the older part of the church and tower with aluminum siding. Vote yes-50 No-13. The week of March 14, 1974, the siding of the church and tower was completed. The contract price was \$5,694.22 and of this amount \$1,000.00 had to be borrowed at 6% interest to be paid at the rate of \$200.00 a month or as soon as possible.

June 1974, the baptistry was installed at an approximate cost of \$2,400.00. This included the remodeling also. Dedication was June 30, 1974, and there was a zone baptismal service at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Spruce was unable to attend the dedication.

August 28 through September 1, 1974, missionary convention with Rev. Elmer Schmelzenbach, retired missionary from the North field of the Republic of South Africa. The offering for Rev. Schmelzenbach was \$491.08.

September 29, 1974, "This Is Your Life" on Charles Wyne in honor of the years he has served as Sunday School Superintendent which totaled 18 years.

District Superintendent Dr. Fletcher Spruce slipped away to be with the Lord December 27, 1974. He was here and spoke at the dedication of the new addition to the church on February 14, 1971.

January 1975, Dr. Bruce Taylor presently serving in South Africa has been appointed to fill the office made vacant by the death of Dr. Spruce. Dr. Taylor took over the office January 20, 1975.

The Lighted Old Rugged Cross was dedicated January 26, 1975. The approximate cost was \$150.00.

Pledges in the amount of \$1,690.00 were taken on April 13, 1975, to purchase another bus for the Sunday School. The bus purchased was a 1966 GMC at a cost of \$1,395.00.

On July 18, 1975, former pastor Rev. Harold Johnston, went home to be with our Lord whom he loved and served.

The Sunday evening service on January 25, 1976, was cancelled because of an ice storm.

Vote was taken April 4, 1976, to purchase property to the West of our present parking lot for additional parking space and rent the house until such a time as it may serve for staff housing. It cost \$14,000.00. Votes cast 85 Yes-63 No-22.

Zone baptismal service was held May 16, 1976, in the evening. Dr. Bruce Taylor was the speaker.

Parsonage improvements as reported in the financial report of May 31, 1976, was a total of \$4,137.52.

Missionary Convention with Edna Lochner from Africa was held August 6-8, 1976.

January 16, 1977, the evening was dismissed because of drifting snow. The temperature dropped to 16 below zero.

Friday, January 28, 1977, a blizzard hit, winds 25 to 30 miles per hour, temperature dropped from 16 degrees above at 4:30 a.m. to 12 degrees below at 10:00 a.m. with a wind chill of 60 to 70 below zero. Police have asked everyone to stay off the roads for they are drifting shut.

Sunday, January 30, 1977, Sunday School was cancelled, roads are closed, there was worship service at 10:30 a.m. for those in town who were able to get out. There was no evening service.

Sunday, February 27, 1977, another bad storm, this time it was ice. There were only 146 able to make it to Sunday School.

An overhead projector and kit were purchased in March 1977, at a cost of \$247.00.

Love Loaf offering for hungry people was taken on May 15 and 22, 1977, with the total amount being \$566.40.

Purchased 220 new hymnals costing \$792.50 and were put to use July 10, 1977.

July 17, 1977, the three section altar was in place this morning and was dedicated to the Lord with two souls seeking the Lord. There could have been no better dedication than the Lord's plan of souls bowing and repenting. Praise His Name, for Jesus was in complete charge of this dedication.

Memory plates have been placed as follows:

Pulpit furniture in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ira Goe

Three section altar in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kelley

Wedding kneeling altar in memory of Floyd Farver

Oak music stand for choir in memory of Pauline Thomas

Two fiber palms in memory of Rev. & Mrs. Charles Brand and Mr. & Mrs. Telshow
(parents of Rev. & Mrs. Willis Brand)

Two candle lighters & snuffers in memory of Irene Diederich

Parsonage carpet in memory of Mrs. Laura Wyne

August 4, 1977, the 1966 GMC bus was sold for \$800.00.

August 27, 1977, work began on the ramp entrance to the annex. The approximate cost being \$2,000.00. (This project as of March 1, 1978, isn't completed.)

During these 60 years, 7 months, and 18 days of the existence of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, God has blessed in many revivals. Many outstanding evangelists, such as Dr. Jarrett, Bona Fleming, W.A.Carter, A.C.Rowland, Earl Starnes, Clayton Bailey were used of God in the salvation and sanctification of many precious souls.

There have been those who have gone from the Auburn Church to serve the Lord in the field of evangelism, pastors, mission field, school teachers and song evangelists such as, Rev. Dwight Steininger, Rev. Leo Steininger, Rev. George Gillespie and family, Rev. Ronald Bishop, Rev. James Weeks and family, Rev. Wilmer Watson, Rev. Lottie Ryneerson, Nina Miller Callison, Kristine Kelley Cullen, Rev. & Mrs. Willis Brand and Marvin Hendrickson, just to name a few.

The church began with 10 members and as of May 31, 1977, we have 228 members. Over the years many have been lost from our membership due to death, some moving away, along with those who are in fields of service for our Lord and in the business world.

May the Lord bless and lead our church and make it to be a shining light to lead many souls to Jesus Christ our Lord who is the only one who can give life eternal.

This summary is from May 13, 1917, when organized, until December 31, 1977.

Your Church Historian,
Thelma Perry

- * March 26, 1979, Mrs. Leo (Vada) Gaff passed away at the age of 90. She was the last surviving charter member of this church.
- * June 1979 - Rev. Gary Klinger came as our Associate Pastor.
- * June 1980 - Thelma Perry, who was church historian for many years, passed away.
- * In 1981 we had a church membership of 207, a Sunday School enrollment of 288 with average S.S. attendance of 182 and morning worship attendance of 176. The finances were at an all time high.
- * In 1982 Rev. Carl Greek accepted a call to Anderson and Gary Klinger went as the associate. Rev. James Johnson came as our Pastor. Rev. Ken and Jackie Stanford came as our associate/youth pastor in Dec. of 1982.
- * In 1983 - during our Sunday School drive we had an average of 248 for April - a record for over 25 years. Melvin and Mary Brown were presented the Distinguished Service Award.
- * In October 1983 we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the General Church of the Nazarene with a "Fill a Pew" Sunday. Our attendance was 340.
- * In January 1984 the church voted to purchase the home on the corner of Van Buren & 4th Street.
- * On August 1984 it was reported that Leah May and Mary Smith had been members of our church for 63 years.

- * In October 1984 the Rex Stanfords, our youth pastor, moved out east.
- * In 1985 Jon Stout came as our youth pastor.
- * On Dec. 24, 1985 Ruth Croy went home to heaven for Christmas.
- * In 1986 the Church Board voted to purchase another van making a total of four vans in our van ministry.. 1986 Ford - \$13,000.00.
- * Dec. 2, 1986 - death claimed a long time member Melvin Bowman who was a devoted Bus Ministry worker.

UPDATE 1987-1992

Another five years have passed which now finds us celebrating our seventy-fifth Diamond Anniversary. Time nor space will allow us to recall the many activities that have transpired during these past years. Let us recall a small portion of them.

On August 30, 1987, our youth pastor, John & Kim Stout left to go to Elkhart to minister there. Then on December 28, Rev. & Mrs. Johnson and family left to go to Sacramento, California First Church. Also, Mark & Tami Diemer left with them to be their youth pastor.

For nineteen weeks we were without a pastor which was a difficult time for the church. On May 8, 1988, Rev. & Mrs. Gerald Parker arrived to be our pastor.

Several major church projects were completed prior to their arrival. During this time air conditioning was installed throughout the church. Extensive remodeling took place in the parsonage. Bathrooms upstairs and down, were completely remodeled. New windows were installed throughout and the parsonage was completely redecorated. Central air was installed soon after their arrival.

On August 15, 1988, Steve and Vicki Paray and daughters came to be our Associate/Youth Pastor.

During the following year, new carpet was installed in the church auditorium, foyer, nursery and choir room, and in both parsonages. Central air was installed in parsonage #2.

Also in 1989, the blue house (4th & Van Buren) was removed and the lawn seeded. Later, a new lighted church sign was installed. The

additional purchase of a computer for the church office made it possible for the upgrading and storing of vital church information.

- In December of 1990, a new electronic Allen organ was installed in the church auditorium which is a real asset to the worship services. A new double garage was built at parsonage #2 also.

The small white house at 323 W. 2nd was removed to allow the building of two additional stalls on the van garage to accomodate the 5th van which had been purchased. This also gave additional parking space which was needed.

During these past five years the following have gone on to their eternal reward: Otho Rohm, Melvina Steward, Hazel Hursh, Esther Blevins, Dorothy Freed, John Stebing, Arlow Batdorf, and Donna Watson.

The church began with cottage prayer meetings held in the home of Clarence and Mae Cook on West 15th Street.

An eight-week revival, held in a building on South Main Street, began in March of 1917. After four weeks the meeting place was changed to 1351/2 East Ninth Street over Murray Steel's Harness Shop. At the end of eight weeks, a mission was organized along with a 13-member Sunday School. On May 13, 1917, the Mission was organized into the Church of the Nazarene with 10 charter members.

Less than three years later, on February 3, 1920, the St. John's Reform Church located on West 4th Street, was rented for \$10 a month. On July 21, 1923 the Church of the Nazarene purchased the St. John's Reform Church for \$3,800. Sixteen months later, November of 1924, the people were challenged to push out the East wall and enlarge the building, along with digging a basement under the church. The next morning early, Ira Goe, Joe Wyatt, Leo Gaff and several others started to dig out the basement. The church was enlarged to about twice the original size, a full basement with classrooms was finished and a coal furnace was installed.

Thirteen years passed when plans were made to enlarge the church building once again. In September of 1940, the building process was started and worshippers met in the Assembly Room of the Courthouse, while the church was under construction. On May 8, 1942, the church was dedicated.

In 1955, an educational unit was constructed at the rear of the church and the sanctuary balcony was converted into a much needed nursery. On October 30, 1955, District Superintendent Rev. Paul Updike dedicated the latest renovation.

On December 15, 1968, plans for a new addition to the east side of the church were presented to the congregation. Construction began on April 20, 1970. Dedication for the new addition was held on February 14, 1971 with District Superintendent Dr. Fletcher Spruce and former pastor Rev. Verdean Owens.

In the mid-1990's, a "Grace-Gift" of 16 acres, located just north of Auburn on County Road 427, was presented to the congregation. With a positive vote for relocating to the property, plans were put into motion to move north!

A Building Committee was formed on April 18, 1999, with Bob Seifert sitting at the helm, along with the formation of five subcommittees and their members. During the second meeting, Bob shared with the committee the following quote, "Effective evangelism is not the product of human skill or effort, but results when God's people are filled with the Holy Spirit and boldly

share the Good News." We as the committee knew this was a "God-sized" project and were trusting Him to see us through.

In September of 1999, the Building Committee members participated in field trips to view church facilities built by Furman Steury Contractor, Inc., and Design Collaborative, and Hoepfner Construction. With the leaving of Rev. Rick Garmon in December of 1999, the committee meetings were put on hold until the arrival of the new pastor. With the coming of Rev. John Kinsey, the meetings resumed and the firm of Design Collaborative was selected to make the drawings of the new building, along with Furman Steury Contractor, Inc., being selected as the General Contractor for the project.

A "Ground Breaking" service was held in March of 2002, with Dr. F. Thomas Bailey, District Superintendent present. Members of the Construction Subcommittee along with Pastor John Kinsey and Dr. Bailey, "broke ground."

During the June 6, 2002 Building Committee meeting, Bob Seifert shared that the last permit needed had finally been obtained and that 5 pieces of earthmoving equipment were currently on the property waiting to begin. What anticipation! Soon the earth began to move, and a building began to appear out of bare ground. Nearly every Sunday the congregation was kept up-to-date on the building progress by means of Bob Seifert's photos. Excitement grew by the week, as the building took shape.

On June 4, 2003 many of the congregation and passersby witnessed the raising and placing of the steeple on the new building. What a moment of crowning glory!

Four months later, Friday, October 10th, the "Great Exodus" from the 4th Street location to 2301 North Main Street took place. Trucks and many hands worked together to bring about a successful move.

A beautiful Sunday morning, October 12th, began our farewell service in the 4th Street location. Many memories were shared with a full-house of excited people. Then at 9:45 the procession of vehicles headed to the new church and its ribbon cutting. Three-year-old Cameron Barse, 13 year old Ethan Barse and 89 year old Emmett Steininger cut the ribbons and the building was officially open! A celebration service followed, during which three families joined our congregation...the Scott and Corissa Pugh family, the Bart and Kelly Stoner family, and the Thad and Susan Weghorst family. What a day of rejoicing and celebration! We had arrived!

Glenda Moore, Church Historian
Leesa Houser, Secretary of the Building Committee

**Church History
2006-2007**

May

6 – A daughter, Baylie Marie, was born to Alex and Ashley Donaldson. Proud relatives include Dean and Dawn Schrader, grandparents; Ramona Rohm, great-grandmother; and Dennis Rohm, great uncle.

June

Our high school graduates are: Nathan Hartman, Charity Plank, Clay Provines, and Brittany Summers. We wish you the best!

13 – Rick and Janeen Getts welcomed their first grandchild, Brendan Thomas _____, weighing in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. Congratulations to Jamie & Josh, too!

Jerry and Pat Platt celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house held in the church's fellowship hall. We congratulate you both!

August

6 – Orville Heise, 88, went home to be with the Lord.

September

9 – Dow and Darola Baker marked their 50th wedding anniversary with a celebration held at the church. We wish you many more!

11 – The first day of Little Miracles Preschool for children ages 3-5. How exciting!

October

11 – Margery Miller went home to be with the Lord.

December

3 – Added to our membership were: Mark Adams, Gene and Helen Coombs, Cheral Cristner, Jeff and Michelle Jordan, Craig, Brooke, Caleb and Ashton Miller, Roy and Trish Protsman, and Tom Sigler.

17 – A 50th wedding anniversary open house was held in the church fellowship hall honoring Bill and Kaye Warren. Congratulations!

January

21 – Joining our church were: Troy and LeeAnn Blanchard, and Gordon and Bev Lawson.

March

4 – Another exciting and fun-filled Upward Awards Night was held at the DeKalb High School Gymnasium with approximately 2500 in attendance. There were nearly 500 girls and boys that participated in the program this year. Awesome!

April

15-18 – Our Spring Revival was held with Evangelist Gary Bond.

Glenda Moore
Church Historian

Church History 2008-2009

May

Our college graduates:

Levi Barse, Olivet Nazarene University
Christina Knisley, Olivet Nazarene University
Kenton Knisley, Olivet Nazarene University
Kenton Miller, University of St. Francis

June

Our high school graduates: Kyle Erwin, Andrew Protsman, and Christopher Watson

22 – Leif & Kristy Ahdel are the proud parents of 5 lb. 3 oz., Maxton Isaak Ahdel. Great-grandparents are Bill & Kaye Warren.

July

25 – A 7 lb. 10 oz. daughter, Lydia Karyl Strawser, was born to Tim & Theresa Strawser. The proud grandparents are Bob & Jean Strawser.
27 – Alayna Kaelyn Thomas was born to Pastor Doug & Joy Thomas, weighing 7 lbs. 9oz. She is loved by big sisters Grace, Emily & Ava.

August

24 – Andy Wilbur went to his eternal reward at the age of 94.

September

19 – Shawn & Stephanie Kromer became the proud parents of 9 lb. 4 oz., Zachary Kromer. He is welcomed by big brother Nathaniel and Grandparents, Dave & Becky Schenker.

October

10 – Emmett & Peggie Steininger celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary.

November

2 – Six youth were baptized: Jimmy Boyer, Lisa Huffman, Allisha Lopshire, Caleb Miller, Forrest Weghorst and Sydney Weghorst.

December

6 – The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Bob & Jean Strawser.

January

– Another exciting year of "Upward Basketball & Cheerleading" kicked off with over 550 children enrolled.

February

27 – Jay & Kristen Roberts are the parents of a son, Jacob Jay Roberts. He joins twin sisters, Addison & Kayla. The proud grandparents are Dave & Becky Schenker.

March

- 8 – The Upward Awards Program was held at the DeKalb High School gym with around 2,500 people in attendance.
- 22 – The following individuals joined our church family: Betty & Ray Ball, Tom Brunswick, Bruce & Deb Driscoll, Jessica Ells, Angie & Lee Porter, and Konnie Randall. We welcome you!
- 22 - Charles Miller was presented with the "Teacher of the Year" award for his many years of service to our Sunday School Department. Congratulations, Charlie!

April

- 11 - Paul Moore went to be with the Lord at the age of 76.
- 19 - We welcomed the following new members to our congregation: Terry & Shellie Purdy, Sydney Weghorst and Forrest Weghorst.
- 19 - A "Town Meeting" was held to discuss the newly formed corporation and future plans for a community center.
- 26 - Faith Promise Sunday with missionary, Rod Reed.

Glenda Moore
Church Historian

